

IN a letter to the 'Free Press' recently, the High Wycombe Sunday Combination expressed strong feelings on a "poor and unco-operative reply" from Wycombe Wanderers F.C. concerning a match between the two organisations to raise funds for the Teddy Knott Memorial Appeal.

The Combination's secretary, Mr. Martin Speirs, felt that Wycombe's refusal was "typical of the club's attitude to local football." He also thought their treatment of a Memorial Appeal was "callous".

This week we received a reply from Wycombe Wanderers chairman Mr. Jack Smethurst. He writes:

"I have been asked by my committee to write to you so that the public may obtain a

Sunday Combination row—Blues reply

more balanced view of the matter. The first point is one where the Sunday Combination state that the fixture was, in all good faith, provisionally negotiated between Mr. Gordon Summerfield and the secretary and chairman of Wycombe Wanderers. This is not true.

"Mr. Summerfield was asked to write to our secretary so that the matter could be discussed by our manager and the committee — normal business procedure.

"A letter was received and the matter discussed but owing to uncertainty regarding fixtures; sickness and injury among the players; calls on our squad by the England team manager and the Amateur Cup coming up, the secretary was asked to inform the Combination that we could not see our way clear to arranging the game.

"It may be that our reply was too brief or that it did not go far enough in explanation. If

that is so, then we apologise. The remainder of the letter is hardly worth comment, particularly when it is remarked that this is typical of Wycombe Wanderers' attitude to local football in general.

"Last season we played a game against a Mike Keen XI and between us raised £400 for the Wycombe and District Minor Leagues.

"We have in progress at the moment, being played at Loakes Park, with cups and

prizes given away by us, a six-a-side tournament which has attracted over 30 entries from the High Wycombe district."

"These are just two recent instances of our interest in local football, in addition to a number of cup finals played at Loakes Park without charge each season. How, therefore, can such an accusation be sustained?"

"I find it difficult to understand why the Sunday Combination should go to such lengths of writing to the press, and the Berks and Bucks F.A., on an entirely domestic matter, when one assumes that we are all in football because we love the game and want to do everything we can to foster the spirit of the game both on and off the field."

KYLE BOOST

THE advent of Maurice Kyle as manager of Oxford City seems to have injected new life into a club that was floundering at the foot of the Isthmian League table in the early stages of the season, with an incredible 70-odd goals scored against them.

Oxford visit Wycombe Wanderers on Boxing Day (K.O. 3 p.m.) and will be hoping their recent run of success will continue. Former Wantage boss Kyle, took over from John Fisher recently and has steered the club to useful victories over Clapton, Corinthian Casuals,

Marlow and a 0-0 draw with St. Albans.

Last Saturday City crashed 5-0 at Tooting but they were without striker John Beasley, who arrived late. Kyle has persevered with Fisher's old squad which is paying off. Bobby Marcham, an ex-Wanderer, has been holding down a regular place.

There is only one definite absentee from the Wanderers team, John Delaney, still troubled by a leg injury. Wycombe will do well if they match up to their last performance against City when they won 8-0 at the White House ground in October.